

Reading at home

Good news 😊 – Collins Big Cat Online (one of the fantastic reading schemes we currently use in school) have announced they are making their reading books available online for parents to download during this time of uncertainty.

Due to the unexpected closures, school is unfortunately unable to give every child a specific reading level. However, here is a quick guide to choosing the correct reading level for your child:

1. If your child is already reading a **Big Cat book**, check the **colour** and **band** at the back of the book and this will give you a great place to start. The Big Cat Scheme uses the following levels:

KS1 (Key Stage 1)

Lilac/Band 0

Pink A/Band 1A

Pink B/Band 1B

Red A/Band 2A

Red B/Band 2B

Yellow/Band 3

Blue/Band 4

Green/Band 5

Orange/Band 6

Turquoise/Band 7

Purple/Band 8

Gold/Band 9

White/Band 10

Lime/Band 11

KS2 (Key Stage 2)

Copper/Band 12

Topaz/Band 13

Ruby/Band 14

Emerald/Band 15

Sapphire/Band 16

Diamond/Band 17

Pearl/Band 18

To get more information about each band, use the Collins website <https://collins.co.uk/pages/collins-big-cat> and follow the link to '**A Guide to the Book Bands**'. This document has also been attached with this one for your convenience.

2. If your child is using another scheme, choose a Big Cat Level based on how much they can read – the correct level is your child should be able to read 90% of the novel correctly (or read fluently 9 out of every 10 words).
3. Check understanding of what your child has read – they should be able to retell back to you in their own words what they have read and take a good guess at meanings of words they are unsure of.
4. Children learn to read at their own pace so it shouldn't become competitive or frustrating. ***"If your child is struggling, don't push him to read, but keep reading to him, and talk about what you read. This will help him to become inquisitive about books and want to read for himself"*** – William Dean.